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Patterson offers “Peace of Mind” booklet

LANSING – The tragic case of Florida’s Terri Schiavo, whatever its outcome, reminds us all of the need for written and living wills. Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, offers a booklet entitled “Peace of Mind” to help draft such important documents.

“As a lawyer, I can only remind everyone how important it is to have a written will,” Patterson said. “If you do not have one, remember that the State of Michigan already has one written on your behalf, a ‘one-size-fits-all’ sort, which is probably not exactly what you had in mind.”

The booklet is a self-help guide to the medical and legal decisions that need to be reached by you concerning your health, assets and the distribution of your estate. One section deals with health care if you are unable to speak for yourself, while another section discusses organ donation.

“A living will sets out in writing what your wishes are, should you happen to find yourself alive but unable to communicate,” Patterson said. “Do you wish all efforts to be made? Do you wish some limit to be set? Who should be responsible for saying that the limit was reached? Would you like special provisions made? All this should be thought out carefully and set down in writing, witnessed and put where it can be found at the appropriate time.”

“Peace of Mind” booklets are available at Sen. Patterson’s office in Lansing and at several locations in District 7. For more information call 517-373-7350 or 1-866-262-7307, or e-mail senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

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